The ship will return to Plymouth in the spring of 2019 and preserve the ship,” says project director Whit Perry.

In November to begin a two-year drydock period to restore the structure (nicknamed “The Mailbox”) erected over her. She’s out of the water with a huge temporary structure, or “whiskey plank” party. The focus for the next nine months or so will be on the ship’s frames, floor timbers, and the keelson,” said Quentin Snediker, the Seaport’s Shipyard Director. “We also have a crew at work replacing the stem assembly, which is five very large pieces that, despite their size, need to be precisely shaped and fitted together.”

As always at the Seaport, the ongoing work is visible to visitors. They won’t let you run the shipsaw, but boat-building enthusiasts will have a great opportunity this summer to watch an extensive restoration in progress, with everything from sawmills to hand tools on site and in use.

The structural pieces are live oak. As was the case with the whaleship Charles W. Morgan during her restoration, black locust trunnels and galvanized metal spikes are being used as fasteners.

For excellent coverage of this project, check out the Plimoth Plantation and Mystic Seaport websites.

The Kitsap Maritime Heritage Foundation continues to restore the steel-hulled, gaff-rigged schooner Fiddler’s Dream, which was donated to the group in 2014. Earlier this month, SEMA celebrated the 1982 return of Ernestina to Massachusetts, where she started her historic journey as the Effie M. Morrissey in 1894. It was 35 years ago this summer that the newly-independent Republic of Cabo Verde made her a gift to the people of the United States.

Since her return to Massachusetts, Ernestina-Morrissey has served as an educational platform and ambassador celebrating the rich maritime history and culture of the Commonwealth. She’ll continue to do so at the completion of the rebuild, when she will become a training vessel for the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne.

The Kitsap Maritime Heritage Foundation continues to restore the steel-hulled, gaff-rigged schooner Fiddler’s Dream, which was donated to the group in 2014. On June 10 they celebrated the completion of the deck re-planking with a “whiskey plank” party. The work parties are now changing their course from deck to installing seams, cork and prepping for tank installation.

The goal is to offer education programs tailored to third, fourth, and fifth graders teaching the use of practical Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).